

Protection to domestic oil producers

4126. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether traders are importing crude palmolein and RBD palm oil as non-edible oils to get benefit from the substantial difference in import duties; and
- (b) if so, the measures taken to protect domestic oil producing farmers to get better returns on investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The information is to be collected from the Deptt. of Revenue and its field formations to ascertain whether any such practices have come to their notice. The information will be laid on the Table of the house.

Indo-Pakistan trade

4127. SHRI M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of present status of the Indo-Pakistan trade;
- (b) the manner in which it has been beneficial for both the countries; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The present status of India's trade with Pakistan is given below:—

(Rupees in crores)

	1999-2000	April-December, 2000 (Provisional)
Exports to Pakistan	405.35	606.54
Imports from Pakistan	296.74	235.18

(b) and (c) Both India and Pakistan have benefited from

importing commodities such as sugar to meet the shortage in domestic supply. Indian exporters have benefited from exporting their products to Pakistan. There is a growing demand for Indian products in Pakistan. Pakistan has benefited from importing raw materials such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, dyes, iron ore, etc. and capital goods including machinery.

There is scope for increase in India's trade with Pakistan which has the advantage of low transportation cost because of geographical contiguity, similar consumer choice and taste etc. Both India and Pakistan are members of the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and have exchanged tariff concessions under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA). India has accorded Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. Pakistan has, however, not accorded MFN Status to India so far.

Import and Export Growth Trend

4128. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of export and import growths during the last three years and till date;
- (b) the reasons for increasing imports and decreasing exports;
- (c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and